



# *2010 Report to Sponsors*



### *Message from the Board Chairman*

*Gaylen J. Byker*

This year's report covers just a few of the activities RGS has engaged in over the course of the last year. It includes the highlights of who we are, what we've accomplished, and where we're going in the future. The 50th anniversary of RGS is in 2011, so much of 2010 was spent in preparation for the big event. Our volunteers and members have maintained their enthusiasm for RGS' mission, and individual donors and corporate sponsors have continued their crucial support.

This year we've added biologists to our field staff, and published a 50th anniversary commemorative magazine. Our project work throughout the ruffed grouse and woodcock range has continued to grow and expand. A few important practices have changed, including the creation of the individual state Drummer Funds. The funds set aside in 2010 will be allocated to projects in 2011.

With our 50th anniversary right around the corner, we anticipate it will be a successful one for RGS and our mission. Don't forget to purchase your copy of the commemorative 50th anniversary publication; it's a great way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of RGS while learning more about our organization and future direction.

Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of RGS and its mission - creation of the young forest habitat so vital to ruffed grouse and American woodcock. We look forward to celebrating our milestone 50th anniversary with you.

### *2010 Projects & Activities Cooperative Project with CONSOL Energy Evolves*

RGS sold its first timber sale on behalf of CONSOL Energy in southwestern Pennsylvania this past August in a joint effort to establish more young forest wildlife habitat on a landscape level. The initial timber sale, administered by Consulting Forester Bernie Braun, is about 60 acres in size. Several additional sales were in the works, as of the beginning of September. All of the lands are open to public hunting.

The cooperative project between the Society and CONSOL Energy includes a core area of 7,000 acres, but has expanded to include other special projects where forest needs to be managed. One new opportunity is a 1700 acre project designed to establish a quail population on a landscape owned by CONSOL Energy in Greene County. This project is being supervised by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Natural Resources Conservation Service. RGS has been asked to handle the removal of the timber to make way for dense, brushy habitat that will not only benefit quail, but also woodcock and eventually grouse and likely many songbirds. Eventually, wild quail will be introduced from other CONSOL Energy lands in Illinois, where they currently thrive.

### *2010 Under Broken Wings Recipient Attends National Hunt*

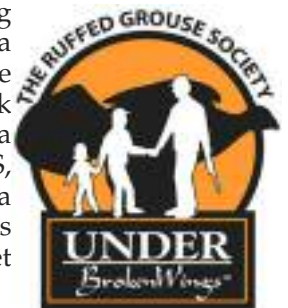


*Mark Lindstrom (l) says a few words during the National Hunt, at the prompting of Board Director James Hayett.*

Mark Lindstrom, a 13-year-old from Pennsylvania, attended the National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt (NGWH) in Grand Rapids, Minnesota this year.

Mark suffers from Legg-Calf-Perthes Disease and a Prothombin 2 Mutant Factor, which prohibit him from playing sports or anything that involves much contact or running.

Mark's mother, Christine, step-father, Brian Williams and 7-year-old sister, Madison, all enjoy fishing, hunting and camping as a family. During the National Hunt, Mark was the recipient of a life sponsorship to RGS, purchased for him by a variety of donations from generous banquet attendees.





## RGS Receives Grant to Expand Wisconsin Coverts Project

by: Gary Zimmer, RGS Senior Regional Biologist & Jamie Nack, Wisconsin Coverts Project Coordinator

RGS has been awarded a Conservation and Community Partnership Grant under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) forest certification program that will allow us, and our partners, to increase the impact of the Wisconsin Coverts Project – a woodland Wildlife Management Program for private landowners in the Great Lakes Region.

“Key components of the SFI program are support for research and landowner outreach, and these requirements in our standard have already led to countless benefits in forests and communities across North America,” SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow stated. “These projects ... will reach far beyond certified lands.”

According to Mike Zagata, RGS President and CEO, “RGS is pleased to receive this grant that allows the Society and its partners to continue and expand our very successful Wisconsin Coverts Project.”

Since its inception in 1994, the Wisconsin Coverts Project has conducted 17 workshops and trained 427 Coverts Cooperators that have impacted over 700,000 acres of private land. Wisconsin Coverts Project partners include the University of Wisconsin and the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW, Madison who organize the workshops, and SFI program participant Louisiana-Pacific US who provided important matching funds for the grant. Additional support for the 2010 Coverts Project has been provided by the Braun Woodlands Foundation.

Workshop participants are given a well rounded perspective, one in which management for wildlife habitat is important, and is compatible with other goals such as recreation, aesthetics, and timber production. This is largely accomplished through classroom presentations



An autumn olive (r) and multiflora rose (l) will soon overtake a native dogwood (lower center).

and field trips in an intensive 3-day workshop. Forest and wildlife professionals from a variety of agencies and organizations share their expertise with participants.

Stacey Steers, Coverts cooperator, has used the information he learned during a Coverts workshop he attended to help him better manage his property and help his neighbors. Steers says, “The Coverts Project is an exceptional educational program. I have never attended a better organized, more informational workshop. Sharing the knowledge with neighbors and friends is another great concept promoted by Coverts. Habitat management doesn’t have to stop at a property line and neighbors working together can make a difference.”

### RGS Receives Charity Navigator's Highest Rating

For the second time in four years, Charity Navigator -- the largest charity evaluator in America -- has given the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) a 4-Star rating for "...its ability to efficiently allocate and grow its finances."



Based on the most current financial information, Charity Navigator has determined that RGS outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate a 'fiscally responsible' organization that spends its money fulfilling its mission. The coveted 4-star rating is the highest charity rating available for a non-profit organization.

According to Ken Berger, Charity Navigator's President and CEO, approximately a quarter of the charities evaluated have received our highest rating; indicating that the Ruffed Grouse Society executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

“This 'exceptional' rating differentiates the Ruffed Grouse Society from its peers and proves that it's worthy of the public's trust,” Berger said in making the announcement.

### New RGS Board Member

Tom Hoffman was elected to the Ruffed Grouse Society Board of Directors in October, 2010. Hoffman is President of Carbon Communications Consultants, a corporate and energy communications consulting firm he founded in 2010, following a 36-year career in the energy industry.



As Senior Vice President External Affairs for CONSOL Energy Inc., his responsibilities included public relations, investor relations and government affairs, among others. He also served as the principal speech writer for senior corporate executives.

Mr. Hoffman holds a Master of Science degree in Geology from the University of Wisconsin, a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

He and his wife, Karen, live with their two retrievers in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania. "While I am not a hunter," Mr. Hoffman said, "nevertheless, I have been very impressed with the RGS approach to conservation issues. RGS's efforts to partner with corporations in the management of land resources is a model that more groups should adopt."



## *Exotic Food and Cover: A Love/Hate Relationship*

by Mark Banker

I have a favorite place to hunt grouse in the late season on private property. It's where I grew up hunting rabbits and blazing away at the grouse and pheasants we stumbled into, mostly to no avail. It is 600 acres of old fields and cutover wooded ridges. There's one place where I can always guarantee multiple grouse flushes – the hillside with the multiflora rose thickets. In fact, the landowner high-graded the timber (meaning: took the best and left the rest) and introduced just enough light to create a giant multi-flora rose thicket that's loaded with grouse, hunter-weary deer, turkeys and rabbits in December and January.

In 1999, I hunted an autumn olive thicket in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan with a friend at 1 p.m. and we didn't flush a grouse. We tried it again at 5, about an hour before dark, and we flushed 22 (killing none, I have to confess). Most grouse hunters and truthful biologists can attest that some food and cover producing exotic shrubs and vines, especially autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), multi-flora rose (*Rosa multi-flora*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and even Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) are often irresistible to grouse and other wildlife. Other rapidly spreading species, such as Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) and tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) seem to only degrade wildlife habitat with no redeeming value. A few irate grouse hunters have wanted to know why anyone would ever try to remove autumn olive and others from some landscapes where it has taken over. To their way of thinking, we are removing the honey-holes. Under more balanced conditions, they would probably be right.

All exotic plants and animals are not created equally. While many spread themselves aggressively to the detriment of native species (like the aforementioned "wildlife friendly" species) and are called "invasive exotics", others pretty much stay where you put them. And if it seems convenient to lump all recent invaders from foreign lands into one intolerable category, don't forget that pheasants, chukars, hungarian partridge and rainbow and brown trout are all very popular introduced species that certainly compete with native species.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension explains that, *Invasive exotic species are plants that are not native to a given area and have the ability to out-compete indigenous*

*plant species. Invasive exotics are often brought into their non-native surroundings by humans with good intentions. For example, autumn olive was originally imported from Asia in the 1830s as a reclamation plant to revegetate disturbed hillsides and was later marketed for wildlife habitat due to its shrubby cover and juicy fruits. Birds distribute the seeds of the autumn olive, rapidly spreading the plant, and it is now categorized as invasive.*

The publication "Managing Grasslands, Shrublands and Young Forests Habitats for Wildlife: A Guide for the Northeast" (see [www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/Northeast\\_Hab\\_Mgt\\_Guide.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/Northeast_Hab_Mgt_Guide.htm)) points out that the prolific fruiting of the exotic shrubs and the fact that they grow faster by staying green longer during the year help them to outcompete their native counterparts. This should be of concern to all of us, for it has been native species that got us this far.

Dr. Craig Harper, Wildlife Extension Specialist at the University of Tennessee, agrees. "We don't recommend planting exotic shrubs for wildlife", said Harper, "because they aren't needed. We have always had excellent results managing for game birds with native species and there is no evidence I am aware of to suggest that they do better with exotic species mixed in."

We don't fully understand the consequences of the exotics replacing the natives, but we suspect it would not be good. It has also been discovered that the fruit of some exotic shrubs are not nearly as nutritious as the natives. One axiom of wildlife management is that a diversity of food and cover producing species is best for wildlife, the "don't put all your eggs in one basket" principle. But in the eastern US, it's not hard to find examples where dozens of contiguous acres of exotic trees and shrubs have established themselves in almost pure stands, thus greatly reducing diversity.

It is on these vulnerable, or already overtaken, landscapes that we're working to restore or establish native species by removing the exotics. We have no hope of eradicating them, nor would we necessarily want to even if it were financially or logistically possible. Our basic goal, at least for now, is to try to maintain wildlife-friendly exotic trees and shrubs as a moderate contributor to wildlife habitat diversity. And keep our honey-holes intact, of course.

## *2011 Sponsor Print of the Year*

The RGS 2011 Sponsor Print of the Year is *Fan Dancer – Ruffed Grouse* by Gerald Putt, a wildlife and nature artist from Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. An avid conservationist, Putt supports numerous conservation groups, including the Ruffed Grouse Society. He has collected many awards over the years for his work. He has won the Pennsylvania Duck Stamp Contest seven times and has been in the top ten several times in the Federal Duck Stamp contest. Original paintings and limited-edition prints of Putt's are in collections world-wide. To see more of this work, visit [www.geraldputt.com](http://www.geraldputt.com).

Prints of *Fan Dancer – Ruffed Grouse* are available to all RGS banquet sponsors throughout 2011.





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*Gordon W. Gullion*

## *Gullion Circle: Golden Aspen Ring, Silver Birch Ring, & Bronze Maple Ring*

The Gullion Circle has been created to recognize lifetime contributors of \$250,000 or more. In addition, RGS is pleased to recognize those who have made contributions to be included in the Golden Aspen Ring (\$100,000 to \$249,999), the Silver Birch Ring (\$50,000 to \$99,999) and the Bronze Maple Ring (\$25,000 to \$49,999).



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*The above listings are as of January 1, 2011.*



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 Joseph J. Switala, Jr.  
 Gary Switzer  
 Anthony Taccone  
 Tech Sheet Metal, Inc.  
 Unity Printing Company, Inc.  
 Paul, Cathy & Alex Valle  
 Dan VenKauskas



## 2010 REPORT TO SPONSORS

### RGS ANNUAL SPONSORS 2010\* ~ Continued

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Vist Financial  
W.R. Casteel Company  
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Yates Electric  
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Young Funeral Home  
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Jason Vaillancourt  
Mark Vaillancourt

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Appalachian Forestry Services  
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Calvin Eddie Back  
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Communication Specialist  
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Elliott Chevrolet  
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John P. Gammill  
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Kenneth E Lamb  
Lone Mountain Processing  
J. Stephen Lord  
M. Null Masonry  
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Richard Mansfield, DDS  
Mountain Forest Products  
Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant  
Harold U. Nash  
Larry E Oder  
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Thomas Trentman  
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James Lemons  
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Harold L. Pickens  
Radabaugh Environmental Services  
REA Appraisals  
Sunny D Kennels  
Mike Triplett  
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Action Floor Systems  
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Thomas & Nicole Aidich  
Neil Anderson  
Aspen Glo Kennels  
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Robert J. Baker  
Baker Tilly  
David & Rachel Bartz  
Robert E Bealka  
William D. Becker, OD  
Thomas Bendorf  
Benefit Design Assoc.  
Bill Bennett  
Brian & Chris Biedermann  
Biomet-Stephan Assn. Inc.  
Blattlers Northwoods  
M & I Bank - Eagle River  
Randy Bohon Family



RGS ANNUAL SPONSORS 2010\* ~ Continued

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Breed Sportsman's Club	Jim E. Henrich	William Morris	Stevens Point Country Club
Michael Brennenstuhl	Joseph M. Herda	Murphy Oil USA	Ron H. Stodola
Brown County Sportsman Club	Bernie Hibbeln	Paul A. Naglosky	Story Creek, Inc.
Gail Buehler	The Highland Sportsmen Club	Nelson-Feller Tennis Camp	Superior Beverages LTD
Thomas Buening	Larry & Lisa Hilgart	Paul Newton	Swid Law Offices, LLC
Bull's Eye Sport Shop	Hill Avenue Dental	Nicolet Hardwoods Corp	James & Rose Teal
Burrows Lake Sports Club	Holm's Riveredge Golf Course	Mark Nissen	John & Donna Thenell
BVK, Inc.	Henry G. Horneck	Northwoods Sporting Goods	Gerald Thiede
The Cabin At Connors Lake	Gerard Hruska	Northwoods Supper Club	Tom Dailing Design
Camp 36	Ides Guides	Haskell Noyes	Toy Box Charters
Can-Am Kennels	Peter Imse	O'Neil Cannon Hollman Dejong & Laing S.C.	Charles Trainer
Catura's Martial Arts	Industrial Fluid Solutions	Otto Photography	Ken & Mary Jo Tuckwell
Central Beer Distributors	Insource, Inc.	Michael R. Palmisano	Tom Turngren
Central Mechanical Systems	J & B Electric	Palmquist's Farm	Van Ert Electric
Central Sands Dairy	Robert J. Jaeger	Don & Judith Pentz	Steve VandenHeuvel
Central Wisconsin Anesthesia Assoc.	Jack C. Jarvis	Peoples Bank of Wisconsin	Scott & Jackie Visger
John E. Charewicz	Joe Aumann Siding	Peoples State Bank	Douglas Wadsworth
Patrick D. Cherney	David Johnson	Pete Kueber Trucking	Brad A. Wagner
Rich Chronquist	Greg Johnson Family	Kenneth J. Petersen	Tim Wendt
Clover Distributing Co.	K.L.P. Logging	Plum Creek Timber	Wern Valley Sportsmens Club
Club 13 Restaurant & Lounge	Jeff A. Kaiser	Alan J. Preder	Karl H. Wesener
Community First Bank	Mitch Kane	Premium Brands	Whitetails Unlimited of Marshfield
Conway True Value Hardware	Jerry Karbon	Dennis W Presser	Richard Whiting
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Thomas P. Crist	Brian Klein	Raymond James	Wildlife Hunt Club
Custom Heating & Cooling	Brian and Melody Klockow	Michael J. Riggle	Mark I Wilken
Dan's Feed Bin	Terry K. Knudsen	Glen W. Ringwall	Williams Concrete Construction LLC
Jerry Dassler	Ron Knuth	Riverside Farms	Wing Haven Kennels
Larry Dassler	Koerten Gallery, Ltd	William L. Robbins	John L. Winter
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Delta Dental	Randy J. Kruzicki	Steve Sash	Wuethrich Foundation
Dan & Hali Dessecker	William J. Kunde	Dave J Schlitz	David A. Zak
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Peggy Farrell	Jim & Marlys Martelle	Sentry Insurance	
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Figi's Inc.	Mattress & Bedroom Broker	Sherper's	
Flambeau Forest Inn Outfitters	R&R Flooring	Sherper's	
The Fly Fishers	Timothy R. McCluskey	Jim & Kathy Shurts	
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Stephan D. Grams	Milford Hills Hunt Club	Spring Harbor Animal Hospital	
Great Northern Corp.	The Milkman, LLC	SRC Services	
Joe Gronlund	Milwaukee Athletic Club		
Trentan Hake	Roger C. Mixter		
John Hasler	William Moir		



### RGS Personnel and Director Updates

#### Biologists

Andrew P. Weik joined RGS as the New England regional wildlife biologist early this year. He will be responsible for implementing on-the-ground forest management, and landowner and land manager education programs through-out New England.



Andy Weik

Weik's extensive experience includes five years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Northeast Region at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. His work included serving as

technical expert on early successional forest habitat management and its impact on American woodcock population dynamics in the region.

"[RGS] was founded on the principle that sound scientific management is essential in today's landscape for thriving populations of grouse, woodcock and other wildlife. I look forward to building on the accomplishments of the other RGS biologists, raising awareness of the habitat needs of grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife [dependent] upon young forest, helping [to] incorporate successional forest habitat management in municipal, state, federal, corporate, and non-governmental organizations' management plans," Weik recently said.

#### Minnesota Grouse Management Position Announced: A Cooperative Effort of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and RGS

Early in 2010, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the creation of a new statewide Ruffed Grouse Specialist position. Partial funding for the position will come from RGS. The position is expected to be filled by the end of June 2010.

"We already have a grouse biologist who tracks populations," said Laurie Martinson, deputy commissioner for the Minnesota DNR. "The increased emphasis on grouse and grouse hunting is expected to include more hunter walking trails, more designated ruffed grouse management areas, and more information on hunting opportunities."



Ted Dick

Management across forest ownership boundaries and in areas accessible for hunting will be pursued. An increased effort is also planned to make current maps of both hunter walking trails and active forest management areas more readily available.

Minnesota is regularly one of the top three states in

total ruffed grouse harvest, alternating with Michigan or Wisconsin for the number one rank. Minnesota's relatively active timber industry, which results in acres of young forest habitat, greatly contributes to the state's ruffed grouse habitat suitability. The new Ruffed Grouse Specialist in the Minnesota DNR will help focus on habitat management for ruffed grouse and enhance hunting opportunities.

Ted Dick, a wildlife biologist, was hired by the Minnesota DNR in 2010 to fill the new position. He is currently working closely with RGS employees to improve grouse habitat.

#### Canada

Putting more chapters on the ground is the primary focus of the new head of the Ruffed Grouse Society of Canada. John Lockerbie of Fredericton, New Brunswick started as the Canadian Coordinator of the Ruffed Grouse Society of Canada late in 2009. He aims to promote growth in the society.



Canadian Coordinator John Lockerbie

"We need to grow chapters in order to be healthy," he said. "That is the route to go. Without new chapters, we can't get there."

Lockerbie is working on getting chapters off the ground in Moncton and St. John, New Brunswick. He had also been in communication with people on the former Halifax, Nova Scotia committee. In Ontario, Lockerbie plans on going through the contact list and attempt to get more chapters operating. In particular he plans to target northern Ontario, as the grouse population is higher there.

On the habitat side, Lockerbie's plans are to evolve from the demonstration projects the Society has been doing in New Brunswick to a program that accumulates land for hunting and creating grouse habitat. Land would be acquired through purchases, conservation easements or donations.

Lockerbie and his wife Brenda have two sons and live in Fredericton. He collects 16-gauge guns and enjoys skeet and sporting clays.

#### Promotions

Gary Zimmer was promoted to Coordinating Biologist.

#### Board Members Retire

During the October 2010 RGS Board meeting, two members announced their retirement from the board. Joe R. Irwin, who was voted onto the board in the Winter of 1986, is the longest tenured board member in RGS history. Stephen F. Quill, who has served since Winter 1995, also announced his retirement.



## Raffle Winners Announced

### 2009-2010 National Raffle Winner Announced

**Ben Robbins** of River Forest, Illinois, won this year's National Raffle, a Model 21 Baby Frame 28-gauge shotgun. The gun featured a beavertail forend, single selective trigger and the RGS logo engraved in gold on the bottom of the receiver.

### 2010 National Banquet Sponsor Raffle Winners Announced

In 2010, as part of a reward program, banquet sponsors had the option of entering an exclusive drawing with seven winners. Following are the seven winning sponsors:

- **Jerry Piotrowski** of Quality Appraisals from Milladore, Wisconsin, won a Connecticut Shotgun RBL-28 round action, 28-gauge side-by-side shotgun.
- Longtime RGS member **Hugh MacMaster** from Alden, Michigan, won an AYA 453 28-gauge, side-by-side shotgun.
- **Todd Hagedorn** of Baker Tilly from Wausau, Wisconsin, won a Caesar Guerini 20-gauge over-and-under shotgun.
- **Jeff Towner** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, won a Smith and Wesson Elite Gold 20-gauge side-by-side shotgun.
- **Paul Beecher** of Wexford, Pennsylvania, won an SKB limited edition RGS model 785 over-and-under shotgun.
- **Bob Norri** of Norri Distributing Co., Inc. from Virginia, Minnesota, won his choice of any pair of Steiner binoculars with an MSRP of \$1,600 or less.
- **David Ziolkowski** of Armstrong Creek, Wisconsin, won a \$1,000 gift certificate to Cabela's.

Established in 1961 the Ruffed Grouse Society is the one international wildlife conservation organization dedicated to promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our sport hunting tradition and outdoor heritage.

The accompanying financial statements include the accounts of the Society's headquarters operations only and do not include the accounts and operations of the Society's various chapters.

The Society is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Income from certain activities not directly related to the Society's tax-exempt purpose, however, is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

**Notes pertaining to the Ruffed Grouse Society audit are on file at the Ruffed Grouse Society headquarters.**

## 3rd Annual RGS 2009 Junior Essay and Poster Contest Results Announced

### Poster Contest Winner



This summer 6-year-old **Paige DeLoretta** from Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania won first place in our poster contest. The topic was "Draw a bird that lives in a young forest," and Paige drew two ruffed grouse in a remarkably detailed young forest habitat.

Paige, who starts 1st grade in the fall, is passionate about the outdoors, loves to fish and is active in her local RGS Chapter in Reading, Pennsylvania. She had a great time helping to plant trees at the chapter field day this past spring.

Paige received a pair of Steiner binoculars and an RGS junior membership for taking first place in the contest.



### Essay Contest Winner

**Bradley Malmquist** is from Mequon, Wisconsin and his essay about his experiences spending time at his family's cabin in the UP won first place. We were impressed with Brad's thoughtful response to our topic, "Share some of what you know about the birds that live in the forest. Why is learning about birds, like the ruffed grouse and American woodcock, important?"

Brad is 15 years old and will be a sophomore in high school this fall. He has two older siblings: Meghan, 18 and William, 17. The family also has a black Labrador, Abby.

Kurt and Susan, Brad's parents, have been taking their family to the hunting cabin for 10 years. The family spends a great deal of time there fly fishing and, more recently, upland bird hunting. His essay appeared in our Fall 2010 issue of RGS, page 26.







## *Moving Towards Active Management: Report from the 2010 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference*

For years, the Ruffed Grouse Society has been all but a lone voice of reason in promoting a balanced approach to the conservation of our nation's forests and forest wildlife; an approach that includes active forest management. But things can change.

In only two short decades, the Ruffed Grouse Society's message was picked up by other wildlife conservationists interested in moving beyond the heat accompanying the forest management debate and toward the light. Recent wildfires in the western United States helped decision makers, the media and many members of the general public understand the important role played by forest management in the conservation of our natural landscapes.

Evidence of the changing attitudes toward the role of forest management in the conservation of forest wildlife was covered in a special session convened at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in March, 2010. The session was entitled *Active or Passive Management of Public Lands: Implications to Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recreation*.

This session brought together experts from across the nation to discuss how best to combine these two management strategies – active and passive – to sustain fish

*include prescribed burning and forest management. These practices can establish and sustain wildlife habitats similar to those resulting from historic fires."*

Unfortunately, these important grassland and young forest habitats are declining throughout much of the eastern and central United States. Less than 1% of native prairies still exist in the prairie pothole region of the northcentral United States and southcentral Canada and only 0.01-0.02% of native tallgrass prairies still exist in Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. Similarly, throughout the eastern United States, young forest habitats have decreased by 33% over the past several decades even though total forest land has increased by approximately 7%.

Breeding bird survey data collected by the US Fish & Wildlife Service document that the number of bird species that breed in shrubland or young forest habitats in the eastern US experiencing population declines substantially exceed the number of these species that are increasing in population. Declining species include ruffed grouse, American woodcock, brown thrasher, Eastern towhee and the seriously imperiled golden-winged warbler. Conversely, the number of bird species characteristic of mature forest habitats that are experiencing population



Brown thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum* (left) and wildfire (right)

and wildlife populations, hunting and fishing on public lands. Broad recognition of the need for a session of this type stemmed from the realization that a hands-off or passive approach to resource management has serious negative consequences for a host of wildlife species and many other essential ecological attributes. The relevance of the issue of active vs. passive management was underscored by the eagerness of Rebecca Humphries, who currently serves as the Director of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and Environment, to Co-Chair this important session with Gary Kania from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

Dan Dessecker, Director of Conservation Policy for the Ruffed Grouse Society, spoke during the session of the need to use active habitat management if we are to conserve the many species of forest and grassland wildlife that are currently experiencing population declines. This is especially true for those species that use habitats historically created through wildfires that raced across the landscape – a natural habitat management practice that society now drastically limits. Dessecker stated,

*"Land management practices used today that can, to some degree, mimic the effects of historic fires on grasslands and forests*

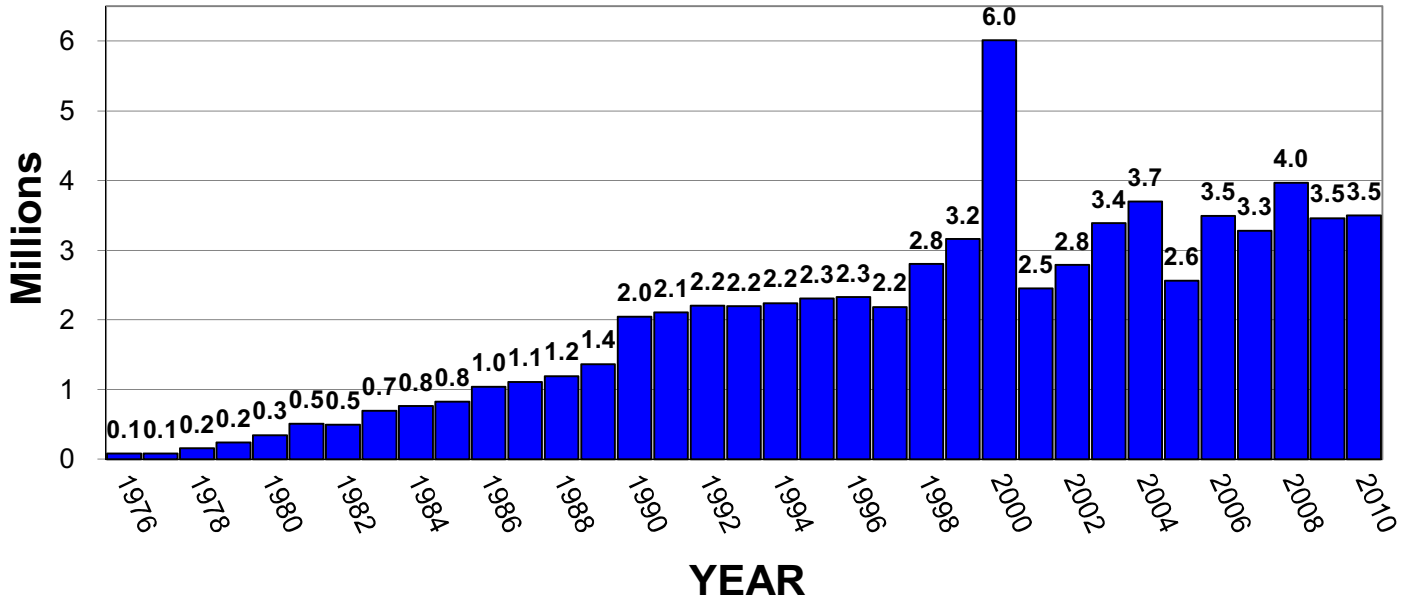
*increases exceeds the number of mature forest birds that are declining. The conclusion is clear: if we are to sustain wildlife that need young forest habitats, we must increase our use of active forest management.*

In her closing remarks, Director Humphries noted how the trend toward increasing the amount of public land where active management and public access is restricted is driven to some degree by the interests of an increasingly urban society. In 1950, 52% of the United States population lived in metropolitan areas; by 2000 that number had grown to 80%. As society becomes increasingly removed from natural environments, our understanding of the dynamic nature of it diminishes, as does our understanding of the role of active management in wildlife conservation.

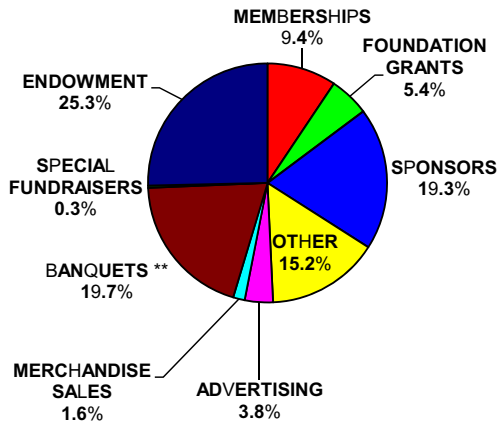
The special session on active vs. passive management of public lands in Milwaukee was well attended by natural resource professionals and struck a resonant chord with many. The Ruffed Grouse Society was a key player in making this session happen, just as the RGS has been, and remains, a key player in promoting a better understanding of the ecological need for the active management of wildlife habitats to conserve wildlife populations.



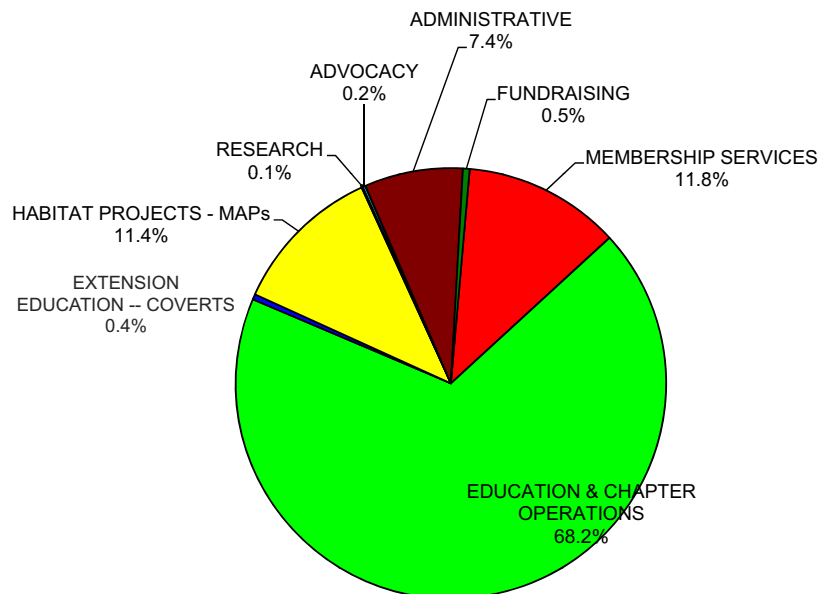
## RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY INCOME (Includes Direct Contributions to FWF)



### SOURCES OF INCOME (2010)



### WHERE YOUR DOLLAR GOES 2010



\*\*BANQUETS does not include payments for Regular and sponsor memberships made via banquets. these payments are included with all others in the categories "MEMBERSHIPS" and "SPONSORS."



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## 2010 REPORT TO SPONSORS

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### RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2010

(With comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2009)

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Cash & cash equivalents, temporarily restricted, designated & undesignated	\$ 843,847	\$ 890,560
Short-term investments	4,669,601	3,451,671
Accounts receivable	120,654	139,132
Pledges receivable	677,482	1,075,945
Contribution receivable	78,927	77,830
Inventory	234,115	293,000
Land held for resale	193,652	193,652
Prepaid Expenses	13,548	-
Property & equipment (net)	402,921	454,241
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,235,014</b>	<b>\$ 6,576,031</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Line of Credit	\$ 683,390	\$ 617,019
Accounts Payable	55,130	46,465
Accrued retirement	28,574	23,662
Accrued expenses	15,558	15,583
Deferred revenue	29,932	33,933
Notes payable	173,037	159,500
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 985,621</b>	<b>\$ 896,162</b>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated (net deficit)	\$ 335,703	\$ 820,838
Designated	\$ 5,030,952	4,115,522
Temporarily restricted	\$ 882,738	743,509
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 6,249,393</b>	<b>\$ 5,679,869</b>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	 <b>\$ 7,235,014</b>	 <b>\$ 6,576,031</b>



RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

(With comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2009)

REVENUES, GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT	2010	2009
Contributions	\$ 1,381,045	\$ 1,471,761
Membership Dues	323,493	337,954
Corporate Sponsors	80,000	63,250
Proceeds from banquets/events	707,868	682,873
Sales of merchandise (net)	54,572	41,245
Advertising income	132,532	124,085
Fundraising	11,345	2,582
Investment income	129,209	115,490
Realized gain (loss) on sale of investments	54,094	(52,826)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	319,680	599,639
Gain (loss) on disposal of property & equipment	1,289	(1,337)
Forestry Clearing and consulting	184,716	78,371
Miscellaneous income	91,334	58,847
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 3,471,177</b>	<b>\$ 3,458,684</b>
<b>FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>		
<i>Program services</i>		
Membership services	\$ 342,395	\$ 325,969
General education & chapter operations	1,978,928	1,883,981
Habitat projects	330,789	314,917
Coverts	11,607	11,053
Research	2,902	2,760
Advocacy	5,802	5,524
<i>Supporting services</i>		
Administration	214,722	204,421
Fundraising	14,508	13,812
<b>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,901,653</b>	<b>\$ 2,762,437</b>
Change in net assets	\$ 569,524	\$ 696,247
<b>NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 5,679,869</b>	<b>\$ 4,983,622</b>
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 6,249,393</b>	<b>\$ 5,679,869</b>



## 2010 REPORT TO SPONSORS



Four Gateway Center, 9th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Tel: 412-281-8771 • Fax: 412-281-7001  
email: info@loisplung.com

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of  
The Ruffed Grouse Society

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of The Ruffed Grouse Society (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related statements of cash flows for the years then ended and the statement of activities for the year ended December 31, 2010. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from The Ruffed Grouse Society's 2009 financial statements where, in our report dated May 5, 2010, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Ruffed Grouse Society as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in its cash flows for the years then ended and the changes in its net assets for the year ended December 31, 2010 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedules of functional expenses and unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets on pages nineteen through twenty two are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

*Louis Plung & Company, LLP*

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
May 10, 2011



RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY  
FUNCTIONAL EXPENDITURES  
DECEMBER 31, 2010

Year ended December 31, 2010 (Unaudited)

	Membership Services	General Education and Chapter Operations	Habitat Projects	Coverts	Research	Advocacy	Administration	Fund-raising	Totals
Advertising	\$ 2,370	\$ 13,696	\$ 2,289	\$ 80	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 1,487	\$ 100	\$ 20,082
Bank charges	698	4,033	674	24	6	12	436	30	5,913
Chapter activities expenses	33,114	191,390	31,992	1,122	281	561	20,767	1,403	280,630
Chapter expenses	22,772	131,613	22,000	772	193	386	14,279	965	192,980
Cost of merchandise sold	5,482	31,685	5,296	186	46	93	3,439	232	46,459
Data processing	1,439	8,318	1,390	49	12	24	904	61	12,197
Depreciation	15,524	89,724	14,998	526	132	263	9,734	658	131,559
Dues and subscriptions	1,170	6,763	1,130	40	9	20	734	50	9,916
Educational programs	2,163	12,502	2,090	73	18	37	1,358	92	18,331
General support	1,960	11,327	1,893	66	17	33	1,229	83	16,608
Habitat workshops	573	3,309	553	19	5	10	359	24	4,852
Insurance	3,042	17,579	2,938	103	26	52	1,907	129	25,776
Interest	3,135	18,118	3,029	106	27	53	1,966	133	26,567
Investment fees	1,620	9,362	1,565	55	14	27	1,016	69	13,728
Legal and accounting	3,452	19,952	3,335	117	29	59	2,165	146	29,255
Meetings and conferences	519	2,998	501	18	4	9	324	22	4,395
Miscellaneous	2,448	14,145	2,365	83	21	41	1,535	104	20,742
Miscellaneous contributions	786	4,542	759	27	7	13	493	33	6,660
Postage and delivery	3,259	18,836	3,149	110	28	55	2,044	138	27,619
Printing	553	3,197	534	19	5	9	348	23	4,688
Promotional merchandise	4,484	25,918	4,334	152	38	76	2,812	190	38,004
Rent, utilities and cleaning	15,395	88,979	14,873	522	130	261	9,655	652	130,467
RGS publications	17,660	102,071	17,062	599	150	299	11,075	748	149,664
Salaries and benefits	165,376	955,827	159,772	5,606	1,402	2,803	103,711	7,008	1,401,505
Supplies and equipment rental	6,394	36,953	6,177	217	54	108	4,009	271	54,183
Telephone	4,541	26,247	4,387	154	38	77	2,850	192	38,486
Travel and auto	22,466	129,844	21,704	762	190	381	14,088	952	190,387
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 342,395</b>	<b>\$ 1,978,928</b>	<b>\$ 330,789</b>	<b>\$ 11,607</b>	<b>\$ 2,902</b>	<b>\$ 5,802</b>	<b>\$ 214,722</b>	<b>\$ 14,508</b>	<b>\$ 2,901,653</b>

CFC PARTICIPATION

RGS participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a member of the Conservation & Preservation Charities of America Federation under the listing of "National Federations." RGS' permanent ID number is 12058. Federal employees are encouraged to add RGS to their payroll deduction plans.



*PLANNED GIFTS AND GIVING*

RGS is eligible to receive tax-deductible gifts of cash, stocks, land, bequests, and other forms of planned gifts. Members are encouraged to add RGS to their estate plans by providing the information available on those subjects to their estate planner or lawyer.

Refer to [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org) > Conservation > Planned Gifts.

*OFFICERS*

- Gaylen Byker.....Chair
- Lawrence M. Clark, Jr. ....Vice Chair
- Denis Karnosky .....Treasurer
- Scotty Searle.....Secretary

*DIRECTORS*

- Leon H. "Joe" Chandler; Edwin H. Gott, Jr.;
- James Hayett; Tom Hoffman, Joe R. Irwin;
- D. Wayne Jacobson, Jr.; Tracy T. Larsen, Bruce Ogle;
- James H. Oliver; John C. Oliver; Stephen F. Quill;
- George Rich; Terald J. Wilson

*DIRECTORS EMERITI*

- T. Stanton Armour, S. Prosser Mellon
- Sally B. Searle, David V. Uihlein\*
- \*Deceased January 29, 2010*

*HEADQUARTERS STAFF*

- Dr. Michael D. Zagata .....President/CEO
- Ronald P. Burkert .....Information Systems and Webmaster
- Tracy M. Greene .....Director – Banquet Operations
- Anna Stubna.....Editor
- Margie Vollmer .....Controller
- Julie Caugherty .....Membership & Marketing Director
- Shirley Rice.....Membership Services
- Rudy Mamula.....Accounts Payable
- Kim Swisher .....Accounts Receivable
- Leatha M. Veiock.....Information Systems Assistant and Mailroom
- Alison R. Kelley .....Administrative Assistant
- Wallace L. Chevront .....Staff Assistant -- Shipping and Receiving

*CONSERVATION POLICY*

- Daniel R. Dessecker .....Director

*BIOLOGISTS*

- Mark E. Banker.....Senior Biologist, Mid-Atlantic
- Andy Weik.....New York & New England
- Gary Zimmer .....Sally B. Searle Senior Biologist
- .....Indiana, Michigan & Ohio
- Ted Dick .....Minnesota Ruffed Grouse Coordinator

*REGIONAL DIRECTORS*

- Mark D. Fouts.....Director of Regional Operations
- Tripp Way .....Northeastern States
- Bruce Wojcik.....MI, Northwest IN
- David Johnson .....WI, UP MI, MN, IA, IL
- Dave Hansroth .....PA, MD, NJ, DE
- Lisa M. Rossi .....Western PA, OH, WV, IN

*NATIONAL OFFICE*

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*RGS CANADA*

John Lockerbie  
 RGS Canada Coordinator